

A declaration of the Queenes Maiesties will

and commaundement, to haue certaine Lawes and orders put in execution
against the excesse of Apparell, notified by her commandement in the Starre-
chamber the xiiij. of Februarie in the xxx. yeere of her reigne.



TH^E Queenes Maiestie hath considered into what extremities a great num-
ber of her Subjects are fallen by the vnrordinate excesse in apparell, contrary
both to the good lawes of the Realme, and to her Maiesties former admoniti-
ons by her Proclamations, and to the confusion of degrees of all estates, a-
mongst whome diuersitie of apparell hath bene alwayes a speciall and lauda-
ble marke, and finally to the impouerishing of the Realme, by dayly bringing
into the same of superfluitie of forreine and vnnecessarie commodities, not
able to be answered with the naturall marchandise of the Realme, as in all for-
mer times wel gouerned hath bene bled, and in all other kingdoms and coun-
tries is politiquely obserued.

For these and many other weightie considerations, her Maiestie vpon speciall
care of the weale and good gouernment of her kingdome, hath with the aduise of her Counsel, thought it meete
and most necessary at this time, to notifie in the latter ende of this Terme of Hillary in her high Court of the
Starre chamber, at an assemblie of diuers Lords and others of her priue Counsell, and all the Iustices of her
Courtes at Westmynster, and in the open hearing of a great number of the Iustices of the Peace of all the parts
of her Realme, and of a multitude of other of her Subjects, that her earnest meaning is, without delay to haue
a speedie reformation of this great intollerable abuse, growen to an vnmeasurable disorder, and the same to bee
done by due execution of certaine parts of her Lawes remayning in force, in such sort as may best bee agreeable
to the present time: And to that ende, for the best example of all others that can bee, hath already for her owne
most honourable Housholde charged and authorized the Lorde Steward of her Housholde, now present at this
assemblie, for all persons vnder his charge, and to the Lorde Chamberlaine or vicechamberlaine for all persons
vnder their rule, to obserue such parts of her saide Lawes, and some necessary orders against excesse of apparell,
as are hereafter particularly expressed to be duely obserued: which to doe effectually the said Lord Steward for
the housholde, and the vicechamberlayne in the absence of the Lord Chamberlayne haue undertaken to see ex-
ecuted. And at the same time also, her Maiesties pleasure was declared in her said Starrechamber, by the Lord
Chancelor of England (as so commanded by her Maiestie) that all the Iustices of Assises of the Realme, who
were then there present, shoulde in their next Circuite through her whole Realme giue knowledge thereof in
their open Sessions, & to charge all Iustices of peace, that in their quarter Sessions, and in any other their as-
semblies, and also all Maiors, and Officers of Townes Corporate, & all Officers of Liberties in their Courts,
shoulde see to the speedy execution thereof, after conuenient time to be limited for a reasonable warning, by the
said Iustices of Assise, for the due execution and punishment of the offenders, so as no subject of the Realme shal
haue cause by ignorance to continue in their offence. The like commandement also was there in that assemblie
giuen by the said Lord Chancelor to all the Heads, Auncients & Principals of houses of Court and Chancerie,
where the aforesaide excesse was noted to be more largely of late yeeres spread amongst the youth there, then in
any other place of England, to see also to the speedie reformation thereof. The like commaundement also was
there remembred to haue bene of late giuen by her Maiesties owne mouth to the Maior of London, and the Al-
dermen of the same, being before her Maiestie in her Presence chamber at her Court. So as it may wel appeare
how earnestly her Maiestie is resolved to haue this notable disorder and excesse speedily & earnestly reformed for
the benefit of her Realme. At the same assembly also was concluded & in the two vniuersities of Cambridge and
Oxford, where this infection was seene to haue made entrie amongst the youth, there shoulde be by the direction
of the Lords the Chancelours of the same, a streight order for repressing of the said disordered excesse of Apparell.
And though her Maiestie might by iustice of her lawes, make great profite by the execution of the same lawes
remaining in force against the said excesse, by leuying the great penalties due to her by execution of the same,
and that also some part of the same lawes, being made diuers yeeres past, by the alteration of time, may seeme
in some part hard to be exactly and duely obserued in all parts: Therefore hir Maiesties meaning was there de-
clared at this time to be to make some prooue of the execution onely of some parts of the same lawes, agreeable
for the time hereafter expressed, without charging her subjects with the great forfeitures already due to her
Maiestie, except it shall be against such persons as she shall be prouoked by finding them disobedient and vnwil-
ling to obey and obserue the speciall clauses and articles hereafter following.

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Certaine claufes taken out of the Statute made for reformation of exceſſe of Apparell,
the xxiiij. yeere of the reigne of king Henrie the eight.

First, it is ordered, that no man vnder the degree of a Marquesse, Earle, and their children, or vnder the degree of a Baron, whilſte he be a knight of the order of the garter, shall weare in any part of his apparell, any wollen cloth made out of any of the Queenes Maieſties dominions, except in Bonnettes onely.

Item that no man vnder the degree of a Barons ſonne, or a knight, except he may expend two hundred poundes by yeere, for terme of life, ouer all charges, shall weare any maner of veluet in his Gowne, Coate, or other his vppermoſt garment: nor any maner of embroidery, or pycking with golde, ſiluer, or ſilke, in any part of his apparell, or on thapparell of his Horſe or Mule.

Item that no man vnder the ſoreſaid eſtates and degree, ſauing ſuch as may diſpend in yerely reuenues, as is aforeſayde, one hundred poundes, aboue all charges, shall weare any Satten, Damaske, Silke Chamblet, or Caſſata in his Gowne, Coate, or other his vppermoſt apparel or garment: nor any veluet, ſauing in ſleeueleſſe Jackettes, Doblettes, Coyſſes, Partelettes, and Purles.

Item, that no man vnder the ſayde degrees, ſauing the ſonne and heyre apparant of a man that may diſpend three hundred markes by yere, aboue all charges, and ſuch other men as may diſpend in yerely reuenue, as is aforeſayde, fourtie poundes ouer all charges, shall weare in his Gowne, or any other his vppermoſt apparell, Chamblet, or Silke: nor in any other part of his apparell any ſilke, ſauing Satten, Damaske, Caſſata, or Sarſenet in his Doblets: and Sarſenet, Chamblet, or Caſſata, in the lynning of his Gownes, or veluet in his ſleeueleſſe Coates, Jackets, Jerkins, Coyſſes, Cappes, Purles, or Partelets. The colours of Scarlet, Crymſin or Blewe, alwayes excepted.

Item, that no man vnder the ſaid degrees, ſauing ſuch gentlemen as may diſpend in yerely reuenues, as is aforeſaid, twentie poundes aboue all charges, shall weare any maner of ſilke in any apparell of his body, or of his Horſe, or Mule, except it be Satten, Caſſata, Sarſenet, or Damaske in his Doble, or Coyſſe: and Chamblet in his ſleeueleſſe Jacketts: or poynts, laces, or garters, made in England or Wales.

Item, that no perſon vnder the ſame degrees, ſauing ſuch as may diſpend ſixe poundes by yeere, as is aforeſaid, aboue all charges, shall weare any ſilke in his Doblettes or Jackettes: nor any thing made out of the Realme, ſauing Chamblet in their Doblettes and Jackettes.

Item that no Seruing man, nor other Peoman taking wages, nor ſuch other as may not diſpende of freeholde fourtie ſhillings by yere, as is aforeſaid, shall weare any Shert, or Shert band, vnder or vpper Cappe, Bonet, or Hat garniſhed, mixt, made, or wrought with ſilke, golde, or ſiluer: nor shall weare any Bonet, or Shert band, made out of the Realme of England or Wales.

Item, no Huſbandman shall weare in his Doble, any other thing then that which is wrought within this Realme, fuſtian and Canuaſſe onely except.

Item, no Seruing man in Huſbandry, or Journeyman in handycraftes, taking wages, shall weare in his Doble, any other thing then fuſtian, Canuaſſe, Leather, or wollen cloth.

¶ Item, if any man ſhal be or weare any Apparell or other thing, contrary to the tenour of the Articles beſore remembred, then he ſo offending, shall forfeite the Apparell and thing ſo woꝛne, wherewith ſo euer it be garniſhed, or the value thereof, and alſo iii. s. iiii. d. in the name of a fine, for euery day that he ſhall ſo weare the ſame, contrary to the tenour hereof.

✂ Certaine other clauſes of the Statutes, made in the firſt and ſecond yere
of King Philip and Queene Mary, neceſſary alſo to be obſerued, to auoyde
the exceſſe of apparell.

First, that no Engliſhman, ſauing the ſonne and heyre apparant of a Knight, or ſuch as may of yerely reuenues during life, expend twentie poundes aboue all charges, or be worth in goods two hundred poundes, shall weare any maner of ſilke, in or vpon his Hatte, Bonnet, Nightcap, Gyrdle, Scabberd, Hoſe, Shooes, or Spurlathers, vpon payne of three moneths imprisonment, and fine of x. li. for euery dayes wearing, contrary to the tenour of this Act.

Item, that if any perſon or perſons, of any eſtate or degree, knowing any ſeruaunt of his or theirs to offende, contrary to the Article laſt beſore remembred, do not put the ſame ſeruaunt out of his or their ſeruiſe, but ſhall keepe in his or their ſeruiſe the ſame offendour or offendours, by the ſpace of xiiii. dayes next after ſuch knowledge had: or ſo put out, retayne him againe within one yeere next after ſuch offence, the ſame perſon ſo retaying or keeping in ſeruiſe any ſuch offender, shall forfeite one hundred poundes.

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Provided alwayes, that all and euery person and persons, which by any statute lawe, remaining in force, is licenced or appoynted to weare any maner of thing, contrary to the tenour and meaning of any of the Articles before remembred, or any part of them, shall and may weare the same to him licenced or appoynted to weare, as is aforesayde: Any thing in these Articles to the contrary notwithstanding.

☛ Certaine other orders meete in this time to be obserued for reformation of
the excesse in certaine kinde of Apparell.



Item, it is further ordered, that no man vnder the degree of a Barons sonne, except that hee be of the order of the Garter, or of the Priuie Counsell, or that may dispend five hundred markes by yeere, for terme of life in possession, aboue all charges, shall vse any embroderies or passemayns of Golde or Siluer: nor shall weare any maner of silke neatherstockes of hosen, nor of any other thing, made out of the Queenes Maiesties Dominions.

Item, it is further ordered, that all the articles before remembred, shalbe put in execution in all points, by all maner of officers, according to the Statutes, lawes, and proclamations heretofore made and set forth, concerning the same. And for such as shall contemne any of the orders before mencioned, being deuised by her Maiesties commandement, the offenders to be attached, and committed to prison, and to be there continued and punished, as appertaineth to such as shall wilfully breake her Maiesties commaundement in causes concerning the publike weale of the Realme.

It is not meant for any thing aboue expressed, but that the seruants of Noblemen and gentlemen may weare such liuerie coates, as their masters shall allowe them, with their Badges or other ornamentes of any heluet or silke, to be laide, or added to their saide liuerie coates.

God saue the Queene.

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Cum priuilegio Regiæ Maiestatis.